

## I. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. Duties

This is a developmental position with known promotion potential to GS-7. As a trainee animal health technician for Animal Care, the incumbent develops the skills necessary for the performance of a variety of inspection duties related to the Animal Welfare Act. Typical duties of the Animal Care AHT include the following:

- assists Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) in the preparation and maintenance of a current and complete list of establishments that are required to be inspected.

- performs inspections of animal dealers and exhibitors who have applied for license under the Animal Welfare Act; conducts routine inspections of licensed dealers and licensed or registered exhibitors; makes reinspection visit if necessary to ensure corrections were made to deficiencies found during previous inspection.

- is responsible for assuring all requirements of the Animal Welfare Act are met and, if not, documents the deficiencies. Typical standards the AHT needs to be familiar with and to be inspected would include: structural strength, water and electricity, storage of food and bedding, waste disposal, heating and temperature, ventilation, lighting, drainage, interior surfaces, shelter, space requirements, feeding, watering, sanitation, cleaning, housekeeping, pest control, handling of animals, transportation, and recordkeeping.

In evaluating adherence of specific technical requirements for these factors the technician must, above all, be cognizant of the overall health and well-being of the animals at the inspected facilities. This includes the identification of common disease symptoms and any indications of broad health problems at the facility. When there are indications of serious problems of this nature, the technician promptly notifies the supervisor or sector veterinarian for more in-depth follow-up action.

- instructs animal dealers and exhibitors on the proper procedures in the humane care, handling, and transportation of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act.

### Factor 1 - Knowledge Required

Must be knowledgeable of physical and behavioral characteristics of various species of common animals. Must be knowledgeable of common animal disease and have the ability to identify

disease symptoms and symptoms of health problems such as malnutrition, presence of parasites, etc. Must be knowledgeable of proper physical handling of animals and be able to identify signs of improper handling and neglect.

#### Factor 2 - Supervisory Controls

Incumbent works under the general supervision and direction of the Sector Supervisor. A higher graded technician or veterinarian works directly with the incumbent and provides more detailed technical guidance and training. As expertise is developed, however, the incumbent performs specific tasks independently. Work is reviewed in progress and upon completion by higher level personnel.

#### Factor 3 - Guidelines

The primary guidelines are the numerous, detailed provisions of the Animal Welfare Act. These are supplemented by established agency policy and operating procedures. Assistance in the application and interpretation of these guidelines is provided as part of the employee's training.

#### Factor 4 - Complexity

The duties involve a series of related but highly varied tasks involving the protection of animals. There is considerable variation in the nature and scope of facilities inspected. The considerable variety of species at the inspected facilities also complicates the job.

#### Factor 5 - Scope and Effect

Work performed by the incumbent of this position plays a significant role in the protection of animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act.

#### Factor 6 - Personal Contacts

Contacts are with higher level technicians, agency veterinarians, animal dealers, exhibitors, and employees of inspected facilities, as well as members of humane groups and officials of local government agencies.

#### Factor 7 - Purpose of Contacts

Contacts involve conducting inspections and related coordination matters, including the correction of deficiencies.

A lack of cooperation and varying degrees of hostility are often encountered in inspections.

#### Factor 8 - Physical Demands

The work involves inspections of facilities of dealers and exhibitors. Moderate physical effort is required. Cautious movement in and around animal pens and cages is necessary to defend against physical attack by large and/or confused animals.

#### Factor 9 - Work Environment

There is exposure to contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases while working around animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act. This includes examination of highly distressed animals at exhibitor and dealer facilities. The work requires some special clothing and gear including rubber boots, long medical coats, sanitized garments, gloves, masks, gowns, and so forth.